

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING

Office of Services to the Aging
7109 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

June 20, 2008

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Cheryl Bollinger, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)

Owen Bieber, Chun-Keung Leung, Amne Talab and Ramesh Verma

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)

None

OSA STAFF PRESENT

Sharon Gire, Cindy Albrecht, Lindsay Bacon, David Dekker, Laura McMurtry, Cherie Mollison, Holliace Spencer, Sally Steiner, and Scott Wamsley

VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT

Carol Barrett, Bob Cochrane, Lauren Essenmacher, Robert Littke, Tom McNaughton, Tina Abbate Marzolf, Becky Reimann, Gail Ringelberg, Angela Willis, Terry Vear, and Craig Zeese

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wright made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Rau seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Pawelski made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

None

OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gire thanked Commissioners Leung, Gardner, Talab, Verma and Kennedy for their participation with the Elder Rights Summit, along with Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) staff and Elder Law of Michigan.

Director Gire updated the Commission on the following:

- Attended numerous volunteer program recognitions throughout Michigan.
- Attended the Area Agencies on Aging Associations Annual Conference.
- On June 11 attended the first Older Michiganians Day held at the Capitol.
- Celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Gatekeeper Program on June 11, also held at the Capitol.
- Will be attending the National Association of State Units on Aging Annual Conference next week.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Program Year (PY) 2008/2009 Michigan Older American Community Service Employment Program (MOACSEP) Allocations

Laura McMurtry, OSA staff, noted that MOACSEP provides part-time employment and training opportunities for low-income individuals, 55 year of age and older, at community service agencies. The PY 2008/2009 employment goal is to transition at least 48.2% of participants into unsubsidized employment.

Ms. McMurtry stated the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has issued final planning figures for PY 2008/2009, which begins July 1, 2008 and is requesting Commission approval of the proposed allocations.

Ms. McMurtry covered in detail the allocation amount and authorized positions by county to the Commission. Ms. McMurtry noted the counties served in the Planning Service Areas (PSA) 3A, 3B, 3C, 5 and 6 are not served by the OSA MOACSEP grant. Currently these counties are served by the AARP Foundation and Experience Works! The Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! serves PSA 1B and the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan also serves PSA 14 in addition to PSA 8.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the PY 2008/2009 MOACSEP Allocations as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newport. Commission approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

A discussion followed on the differences from this year's allocations and last, with a request that a column be added showing the previous year's allocations. Also discussed was the effect the approaching baby boomers were going to have on employment.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

State Advisory Council (SAC) Report

Commissioner Walters, Chair of the SAC gave a summary of the June 12, 2008 SAC meeting. Commissioner Walters stated the meeting was held face-to-face with 36 of the 40 members in attendance. Presentations were given by Ms. Lindsey Bacon, student intern, on OSA's initiative for wellness; Mark Swanson, Michigan Association of Senior Centers, on senior centers; and, Carol Barrett, So What Evaluation, on the results of the survey conducted with Michigan senior centers. Chairperson Kennedy attended as the visiting Commissioner. Commissioner Walters also noted that Terry Vear was elected Vice-Chair of the SAC. Commissioner Walters acknowledged SAC member Gail Ringelberg who was in attendance today.

Legislative Update

Sally Steiner, OSA staff, gave a general overview of the calendar for the Senate and House legislative sessions. Ms. Steiner also gave a brief update on current bills that affect Michigan's older adults. Discussion followed on how action can be taken by individuals or the Commission on the bills where OSA is the lead agency. Ms. Steiner recommended that Commissioners meet with their own representatives and also with the Chair of the Committees assigned responsibility for the proposed legislation.

Commissioner Bollinger made a motion for the Commission to write a letter of support for the pending elder abuse bills. Commissioner Gardner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Further discussion followed.

Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging (MDSA)

Chairperson Kennedy welcomed Dr. Robert Littke, former Commissioner and President of Senior Services located in Kalamazoo and Mr. Bob Cochran, Executive Director of the Cass County Office on Aging and Vice President of MDSA. MDSA is a statewide organization representing community-based agencies that provide direct services for older adults in Michigan. Dr. Littke and Mr. Cochran noted the variety of service programs offered, many of which go beyond what is funded by the State. MDSA assists older adults so they may continue to live in their own homes and avoid long term care settings. Dr. Littke noted that MDSA's mission is to enhance the lives of older adults through advocacy and education. Mr. Cochran explained how MDSA is becoming more innovative and creative. Mr. Cochran briefed the Commission on the services that are funded by all sources.

Chairperson Kennedy thanked Dr. Littke and Mr. Cochran on behalf of the Commission for a very enlightening and informative presentation.

Other

Commissioner Gardner noted that a letter from the Commission has been drafted in support of having a ramp at the Capitol for the speaker's platform. Commissioner

Gardner also noted she received a lifetime achievement award from Pride Banquet in Detroit. On June 24 at 10:00 p.m. a program called "30 Days" will air about second parent adoption and Commissioner Gardner noted she is in the program.

Commissioner Walters noted that Sanilac County will hold their annual Senior Fair on June 27.

Commissioner Newport stated he had seen a movie called "Young at Heart" and would recommend that Commissioners also see it. It is about seniors enjoying life.

Commissioner Bollinger talked with Lt. Governor Cherry who could not say enough about the work OSA is doing on behalf of older adults in the state.

Commissioner Wilson announced that Macomb County will have Senior Day at Freedom Hill next Wednesday, June 25.

Chairperson Kennedy shared information about The Heat and Warmth Club in Detroit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lunch is being provided today through the generosity of the MDSA.

The Commission will be conducting a strategic planning session following lunch.

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on July 18, 2008, at the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, Room 2-D, Lansing.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council will be on August 14, 2008.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Wright. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.